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BEANS
FDP 4-62
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1962 BEAN PRODUCTION LOWER;

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

EXPORT PROSPECTS GOOD

Production

Smaller bean crops in the three largest producing countries coupled with short crops in Western Europe indicate that the 1962-63 supply will be 5 percent below that of a year ago. The preliminary estimate for 29 reporting countries is 95 million bags. Production estimates are not available from Communist countries, much of Africa, and Latin America. If nonreporting areas could be included, the total production figure would be near 125 million bags.

In North America, 1962 production totaled 33.2 million bags, down 11 percent from the 1961 estimate of 37.3 million. The decrease reflects principally the smaller production in the United States where frost reduced mid-Western crops, and in Mexico where drought prevailed. Canada and Central America reported sizable percentage increases but in volume these were relatively small.

European production was down 3 percent to an outturn of 15.9 million bags compared with 16.4 million in 1961. But 7 of the 11 reporting countries reported much sharper declines, ranging as high as 15 to 30 percent. These, however, were almost wholly offset by the 9 percent increase in Yugoslavia, the largest single European producer. Production in a number of smaller countries in Western Europe has been declining steadily because of an acreage shift to less risky crops and which require less labor.

In South America production is down, but this estimate reflects principally the situation in Brazil where 90 percent of the total South American crop is produced. Argentina, Chile, and Peru all show sizable percentage increases but these are relatively small in volume. These smaller producers however are more important in international trade than is Brazil.

BEANS, DRY EDIBLE: Acreage, yield, and production in specified countries, average 1955-59, annual 1961 and 1962

Continent and country	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1955-59	1961	1962	Average 1955-59	1961	1962	Average 1955-59	1961	1962
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/
North America:									
Canada	69	66	65	1,064	1,205	1,380	734	795	897
Costa Rica	108	128	128	318	330	352	343	422	450
Dominican Republic ..	48	40	40	973	945	945	467	537	378
El Salvador	60	53	50	623	436	450	374	231	225
Guatemala	109	115	115	560	583	587	610	670	675
Mexico	3,075	3,954	4,000	308	346	287	9,484	13,669	11,464
Nicaragua	158	121	121	452	575	577	714	696	698
Panama Republic	50	48	63	340	531	522	170	255	329
United States	1,478	1,439	1,452	1,178	1,390	1,247	17,404	20,006	18,102
Total	5,155	5,964	6,034	587	625	551	30,300	37,281	33,218
South America:									
Argentina	61	62	86	831	923	923	507	572	794
Brazil	5,504	6,178	6,795	601	625	565	31,429	36,949	35,274
Chile	205	240	231	819	801	882	1,678	1,923	2,039
Colombia	310	197	200	435	555	500	1,349	1,093	1,000
Peru	78	101	103	818	817	899	638	825	926
Total	6,158	6,778	7,415	578	610	540	35,601	41,362	40,033
Europe:									
Austria	2	1	1	1,800	1,167	--	36	35	30
Belgium-Luxembourg ..	1	1	1	2,400	1,874	1,872	24	18	15
France	309	194	183	760	911	946	2,349	1,768	1,731
Germany, West	4	4	5	1,650	1,776	--	66	72	88
Greece	158	185	167	646	767	723	1,021	1,417	1,206
Italy	1,013	904	877	352	457	440	3,566	4,134	3,858
Netherlands	10	10	6	1,730	1,817	2,144	173	190	135
Portugal	842	1,061	1,000	130	143	121	1,095	1,513	1,213
Spain	247	256	260	988	1,227	1,221	2,441	3,142	3,175
Sweden	3	4	4	1,375	1,312	1,312	35	55	55
Yugoslavia	561	560	600	723	--	--	4,052	4,056	4,409
Total	3,150	3,180	3,104	472	516	513	14,858	16,400	15,915
Asia:									
Japan	306	194	212	1,116	1,475	1,424	3,416	2,862	3,018
Lebanon	1	2	2	510	900	1,100	10	18	22
Syria	4	4	4	525	500	450	21	20	18
Turkey	271	282	300	1,008	1,048	1,102	2,731	2,954	3,307
Total	582	482	518	1,062	1,215	1,229	6,178	5,854	6,365
Grand total	15,045	16,404	17,071	578	615	560	86,937	100,897	95,531

1/ Bags of 100 pounds.

Asian production, mainly in Turkey and Japan, is estimated at 6.3 million bags, up 9 percent from the 5.8 million bags in 1961. Burma produces almost one million bags of butter beans a year but does not separate these estimates from other pulses. Burmese pulse crops are down 7 percent in 1962. This, plus rising export prices for butter beans, indicates that the Burmese butter bean crop probably is down considerably. Prices of butter beans in Burma have risen 50 percent since October, 1961. Burma usually exports large quantities of pulses to Japan at low prices enabling Japan to export higher quality and more expensive Japanese beans.

Export Prospects

In view of shorter world bean supplies international trade may be smaller than last year but the U.S. share may be larger.

In the large West European importing market, bean production is about one million bags below last year indicating the need for larger imports. At least three traditional sources of these imports appear to have less exportable supplies contrasted with ample U.S. stocks. Most of the East European exports will probably move to Communist areas including Cuba. The 1962 Chilean export crops harvested in the second quarter of 1962 are sold out. Japan will find it hard to replace any sizable exports to West Europe by importing cheaper beans from Burma.

The large supply of U.S. pea beans began movement to Europe earlier and in larger quantities this year than usual.

The Mexican borders have been opened recently to U.S. exports and some shipments have been made.

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